

**AGENDA:** January 27, 2004

**8.3**

**CATEGORY:** Items Initiated by Council

**DEPT.:** City Council

**TITLE:** Position of Support—Measure J, Parcel Tax, Mountain View-Whisman School District

**RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt a position supporting the Measure J parcel tax for the Mountain View-Whisman School District.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact directly associated with the approval of the above-listed recommendation.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

Measure J on the March 2, 2004 ballot proposes a special five-year tax on parcels located within the Mountain View-Whisman School District boundaries to protect and enhance the quality of education provided by the District. Specifically, the proceeds of the tax will be used to provide resources to keep school enrollments and class sizes small, retain teachers and staff, restore music and art education programs, keep school libraries open and preserve essential educational programs.

Tax assessments will be based on the square footage of parcels located within the District as follows:

<b>Size of Parcel</b>	<b>Amount of Annual Tax</b>
0-8,000 square feet	\$75 per parcel
8,001-14,000 square feet	\$150 per parcel
14,001-22,000 square feet	\$200 per parcel
22,001-28,000 square feet	\$300 per parcel
28,001-44,000 square feet	\$400 per parcel
More than 44,000 square feet	\$600 per parcel

**AGENDA:** January 27, 2004

**PAGE:** 2

Senior citizens with property within the District may apply for an exemption to the new tax. Property owners with properties containing more than one contiguous parcel may request that the tax be based on the total square footage of all the parcels, not each individual parcel.

The special tax is expected to raise approximately \$1.6 million each year for the five years it will be in existence.

An independent citizen oversight committee will be established and the proceeds of the tax will be deposited into a separate fund. The District will prepare an annual report detailing the amount of funds collected and spent and the status of any project authorized to be funded.

The full text of Measure J, an impartial analysis of the Measure by the County Counsel and arguments for and against the Measure are attached (Attachment 1).

The Mountain View Chamber of Commerce recently declared its support of Measure J. I recommend that the Mountain View City Council also support Measure J. In crafting this tax measure, the District has done an excellent job in working with a broad array of community interests to ensure that the measure is both a reasoned and reasonable approach to providing much-needed resources in support of educating the youth of our community.

**PUBLIC NOTICING**—Agenda posting.

Prepared by:

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601-01-27-04M-2^

Attachment: Text of Measure J, Impartial Analysis and Arguments For and Against